

BARABOO/SAUK COUNTY

A Campus of the University of Wisconsin Colleges

January 27, 2010

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
2446 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

Enclosed please find two applications for federal appropriations to support facilities projects at the University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County. The first is a request for funding to renovate and construct new science classrooms and laboratories, and the second is for our GREEN residential and conference facility known as the Living and Learning Center (LLC). The University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County represents a unique partnership in our community whereby the City of Baraboo and Sauk County own and maintain the buildings and grounds of the campus, and the University of Wisconsin provides the movable equipment and the funding to deliver University of Wisconsin programming.

The University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County (UW-BSC) is a two-year liberal arts campus of the University of Wisconsin Colleges and the University of Wisconsin System. We have an enrollment of approximately 600 students who are pursuing a University of Wisconsin education. Since opening our doors in 1968, we have served over 14,000 students. For many, we are a gateway to obtaining a University of Wisconsin degree. UW-BSC specializes in the delivery of freshman-sophomore liberal arts education. Additionally, the campus offers place-bound students a number of collaborative UW baccalaureate degrees and one master's degree in partnership with other UW institutions. Our genesis lies in the "Wisconsin Idea," the notion that all Wisconsinites should have access to the resources of the University of Wisconsin. Many of our students are first-generation college students and over 25% are adult learners.

UW-BSC has seen a significant increase in enrollment over the last five years. As Wisconsin and Sauk County's economies have changed, many residents are seeking out opportunities that the UW offers for education and personal development. UW-BSC is well positioned to contribute to the UW System's Growth Agenda by providing access to a UW education in an area of the state that has a relatively low level of college attainment. The two projects below will allow UW-BSC to better serve the residents of our region and the state.

Science Facilities Project:

UW-BSC is seeking to address the national shortage of science and health care graduates by building and remodeling science labs, classrooms and associated faculty offices. These facilities were originally built in 1968 and have not been significantly upgraded since. While the teaching faculty has been able to deliver recognized teaching excellence, the ability to expand the science curriculum and attract top students is limited. This project is currently in the City of Baraboo

Thomas C. Pleger, Ph.D., Campus Executive Officer and Dean

and Sauk County's long-range planning process. UW-BSC seeks federal funding to be used in partnership with City of Baraboo, Sauk County and University of Wisconsin funding.

Living and Learning Center Project:

The UW-BSC LLC Building will be both a conference facility and residence hall. The conference room will seat about 125 people with small break-out rooms for meetings. The residence hall is designed to house 96 students, 4 residence hall assistants and 1 residence hall director. The construction is anticipated to meet the LEED platinum certification for environmental impact and sustainability. The building will feature a green roof for outdoor learning and community functions. This project will need to be built with non-local taxpayer funding. UW-BSC is seeking federal and private support for this project. The campus has recently reconnected with more than 13,000 alumni to help promote this project. When completed, the LLC will be the first residential facility available to UW-BSC students. This facility will improve access to UW-BSC for students how commute excessive distances to the campus. Student and market surveys have demonstrated a need for the facility and it is supported by local government, chambers, economic development organizations and the University of Wisconsin Colleges. Additional detailed information about the project including support letters can be found at: <http://www.baraboo.uwc.edu/?pid=174>

As state support continues to decline for the UW System, UW-BSC is aggressively seeking out additional support for the campus. The campus is currently developing an alumni association, developing and strengthening its foundation's ability to fundraise, and looking for federal and private grant opportunities. The above requests represent opportunities that will have a dramatic impact on UW-BSC's ability to enhance educational opportunities of the citizens of Sauk County and the surrounding area.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience should you require additional information about requests.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Pleger, Ph.D.
Campus Executive Officer and Dean

CC: Kevin Reilly, President of UW System
David Wilson, Chancellor of UW Colleges and UW-Extension
Kris Andrews, Assistant Vice President, UW System
Marty Krueger, Chair of Sauk County Board
Pat Liston, Mayor of City of Baraboo
Rosemary Potter, Director of Government Relations, UWC and UW-EXT